



# U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary

## F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

---

<http://judiciary.house.gov/>

### **News Advisory**

For immediate release  
February 15, 2006

Contact: Jeff Lungren/Terry Shawn  
202-225-2492

## **Crime Oversight Hearing Thursday on Crime Victims' Interests and the Criminal Justice System**

**What:** Oversight Hearing entitled, “Victims and the Criminal Justice System: How to Protect, Compensate, and Vindicate the Interests of Victims”  
**Who:** Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security – Rep. Howard Coble (R-N.C.), Chairman  
**When:** 10:00 a.m., Thursday, February 16, 2006  
**Where:** 2141 Rayburn Building

*While crime has been reduced dramatically since the 1990's, the impact of crime victimization remains overwhelming in terms of emotional harm, reduced productivity and direct and indirect societal costs. The criminal justice system must strike the right balance between the costs imposed on victims and the rights of criminal defendants. Too often, the interests of the victim are ignored in the criminal justice system, whether it be compensation through the court system, vindication of the victim's interest in justice for the criminal who harmed the victim, or efforts to make the victim “whole” once again.*

### **BACKGROUND...**

- ✓ In 2004, U.S. residents age 12 or older experienced an estimated 24 million violent and property victimizations.
- ✓ In the U.S., one person is murdered every 32.5 seconds; one violent crime occurs every 6 seconds; one rape or sexual assault occurs every 2.5 minutes; one child is reported abused or neglected every 35 seconds; and one violent crime is committed every 20 seconds.
- ✓ By reducing crime through deterrence and incapacitation of criminals, there are significant emotional and cost savings to victims and society.

### **THIS HEARING WILL ASK...**

- ⇒ What measures are needed to address victims' needs in the criminal justice system?
- ⇒ What prevention programs can help reduce the incidence of victimization?
- ⇒ Does the criminal justice system adequately weigh the societal costs of crime?
- ⇒ What additional efforts are needed to help reduce the incidence of crime?

**WITNESSES:** Ms. Collene Thompson Campbell, National Chair, Force 100; Ms. Mary Lou Leary, Executive Director, National Center for Victims of Crime; Dr. Katherine Coffman, Medical Director of the Childhelp Children's Center, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center; and Ms. Phyllis Turner Lawrence, Independent Consultant, Restorative Justice and Victims Services.

#####